

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Serial Number: 09/897,252

Filing Date: July 2, 2001

Title: IMPROVED INTEGRATED CIRCUIT BURN-IN METHODS AND APPARATUS

Assignee: Intel Corporation

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Dkt: 884.414US1 (INTEL)

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed April 28, 2004, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group II, claims 4-6. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce the non-elected claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications at a later date.

Applicants hereby request that the Examiner enter this Preliminary Amendment before acting on this case. By this amendment, non-elected claims 1-3 and 7-32 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 33-45 have been added, and they are all includable in elected Group II.

Amendments to Claims 4-6

Each of original claims 4-6 has been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

In independent claim 4, "at least one" has been inserted before "IC" (two occurrences).

In claim 5, "is to compare" has been substituted for "compares"; "is to bin" has been substituted for "bins"; "at least one" has been inserted before "IC"; "is to decrement" has been substituted for "decrements"; and "compare" has been substituted for "compares".

In claim 6, "at least one" has been inserted before "IC" (two occurrences); "to be responsive" has been substituted for "responsive" (two occurrences); "is to compare" has been substituted for "compares"; "is to generate" has been substituted for "generates" (two occurrences); "is to bin" has been substituted for "bins"; "is to decrement" has been substituted for "decrements"; and "compare" has been substituted for "compares".

The amendments to the claims are made to satisfy Applicants' stylistic preferences, not necessarily to satisfy any legal requirement(s) of the patent laws, and they are not intended to limit the scope of equivalents to which any claim element may be entitled.

New Claims 33-45

New claims 33-45 have been added to provide Applicants with additional protection to which Applicants are entitled. New claims 33-45 are supported by the original disclosure. No new matter has been introduced.

New claims 33 and 34 are dependent upon claims 5 and 6, respectively. Support for new claims 33 and 34 may be found, for example, in original claim 1.

New independent claim 35 is similar to amended claim 4.

New dependent claims 36 and 37 are similar to amended claims 5 and 6, respectively.

New dependent claims 38 and 39 are similar to new claims 33 and 34, respectively.

New independent claim 40 is similar to original claim 7, except that claim 40 does not recite a temperature-altering mechanism, nor does it recite controlling the temperature-altering mechanism. The Examiner, in Paragraph 4 of the Restriction Requirement, indicated that the Group III combination (claims 7-10) had a temperature-altering mechanism, which is not required in the Group I (claims 1-10) and Group II (claims 4-6) subcombinations. Because claim 40 does not recite a temperature-altering mechanism, it thus falls within elected Group II.

New dependent claims 41-43 are similar to original claims 8-10, respectively.

New dependent claim 44 is dependent upon claim 40. Support for claim 44 may be found, for example, in original claim 1.

New dependent claim 45 is dependent upon claim 40. Support for claim 45 may be found, for example, in original claim 3.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement and a 1449 Form on July 2, 2001, and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and a 1449 Form on January 30, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that initialed copies of the 1449 Forms be returned to Applicants' Representatives with the next official communication to indicate that the cited references have been considered by the Examiner.

Conclusion

Consideration of claims 4-6 and 33-45 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney, Walter W. Nielsen (located in Phoenix, Arizona) at (602) 298-8920, or the below-signed attorney (located in Minneapolis, Minnesota) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

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By their Representatives,

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Date May 26, 2004

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 27 day of May, 2004.

Anne M. Richards

Name

Signature

